

## BOATING SAFETY

- Boating injuries are usually caused by the driver of the boat – not always the equipment or weather.
- 79% of boating-related deaths occur on inland waters, such as rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.
- Drowning continues to be the # 1 cause of deaths in boating accidents. 80% of drowning victims were not wearing life jackets. Less than 23% of boaters in all boating groups wear life jackets. More than 60% of boating fatalities result from capsizing, falling overboard, or flooding/swamping.
- Death rates decrease significantly when a boater has some boater education. Eighty-eight percent of fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not taken a boater education course.
- Open motorboats have the highest overall number of fatalities (approximately half).
- Canoes and kayaks have high numbers of fatalities due to drowning. Personal watercraft (PWCs) have a relatively high fatality rate due to trauma.
- Roughly one-third of recreational fatalities occur while boaters are engaged in fishing activities. A smaller number die while hunting from a boat.

## Boating Safety Tips

- **Wear a life jacket-It's your life, Preserve It!**
- **Take a Safe Boating Class-It can save your life! [For a class in your area, call 1-888-362-2822]**
- **Keep your boat maintained**
- **Install/test a Carbon Monoxide alarm-contact boat company**
- **Keep aboard your boat: A ship-to-shore radio, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, lifejackets, etc.**
- **Never drink alcohol or use drugs while operating a boat**
- **Drink plenty of water or hydration drinks and energy food, such as fruit or energy bars**
- **Wear waterproof/sweat-proof UVA and UVB sunscreen**
- **Wear a hat, sunglasses, and UV protective clothing**
- **Wear lipscreen with at least SPF 15**



(DeCarli, 2012)